

---

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

---

Crowe

SB No. 684

Present law provides that within 72 hours of admission to a treatment facility by emergency certificate, the person must be independently examined by the coroner, or his deputy, who must execute an emergency certificate, pursuant to present law, which is a necessary precondition to the person's continued confinement. Present law further provides that if the actual examination by the psychiatrist is conducted by telemedicine, the 72-hour independent examination by the coroner must be conducted in person.

Proposed law retains present law, and further provides as follows for any parish with a population between 191,000 and 192,000, according to the latest decennial census:

1. The coroner or deputy coroner, who is a physician, may conduct an examination and execute an emergency certificate by telemedicine utilizing video conferencing equipment, provided a licensed health care professional who can adequately and accurately assist with obtaining necessary information as prescribed in present law will be present in the examining room with the patient at the time of the video conferencing and other requirements of present law are met.
2. The coroner or deputy coroner, who is a physician, may conduct an examination and execute an emergency certificate by telemedicine utilizing video conferencing equipment if the initial examination was made in person by a psychiatrist, psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner, or by a psychologist.
3. If the coroner conducted the initial examination by telemedicine and executed the first emergency commitment certificate, a second examination must be made in person within the 72-hour period prescribed in present law by any psychiatrist, psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner, or by a psychologist at the treatment facility where the person is confined.
4. When a patient is transferred from another parish, a second physician's emergency certificate may be executed by a physician at the admitting facility.
5. The coroner must be notified immediately following the execution of the second emergency certificate and shall conduct an independent examination within 72 hours as provided in present law and in the manner provided in proposed law.
6. Provides that nothing in proposed law shall be construed to authorize a period of commitment of more than 15 days from the date of the initial physician emergency certificate in the transporting parish in accordance with present law.

Effective upon signature of the governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Amends R.S. 28:53(G)(2); adds R.S. 28:53(G)(7))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Senate Floor Amendments to engrossed bill.

1. Deletes provisions that generally allow a coroner or deputy coroner to conduct an examination by telemedicine.
2. Provides for a parish with a population between 191,000 and 192,000:
  - a. Provides that the coroner or deputy coroner may conduct an examination prior to the execution of an emergency commitment certificate via telemedicine, under certain circumstances.
  - b. Provides for a second examination by certain medical personnel at the treatment facility where the person is confined, if the initial examination was made by the coroner.
  - c. Provides for execution of a second physician's emergency certificate when a patient is transferred from another parish.
  - d. Provides for notification to the coroner immediately after the execution of the second emergency certificate and requires an independent coroner's examination within 72 hours.
  - e. Specifies that proposed law does not authorize a commitment period of more than 15 days.

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Health and Welfare to the reengrossed bill.

1. Removed the requirement that a second physician's certificate be executed by a physician at the admitting facility when a patient is transferred from another parish and made the second certificate under the same circumstances permissive.